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THE FALL PIG CROP REPORT

A radio talk by E. J. Rowell, Agricultural Marketing Service, broadcast in the Department of Agriculture's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Tuesday, December 23, 1941, by stations associated with the Blue Net Work of the National Broadcasting Company.

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KADDERLY:

Just about a year ago Secretary Wickard recommended that farmers raise more pigs. Last April the Department announced an expansion of its Ever Normal Granary program to insure ample supplies for the United States, Great Britain, and other nations resisting aggression. This announcement called for an increase in the production of pork and assured Government support of prices. On September 8 Secretary Wickard called for an increase of more than 8 million in the number of hogs sent to market in 1942.

The Department's Marketing Service issued its December Pig Crop Report at exactly 12:00 o'clock Eastern Time today. This report will shed some light on the extent to which farmers have responded to the call for more pork in the Food for Freedom campaign.

For the highlights of this December Pig Crop Report, here is E. J. Rowell, of the Marketing Service.

ROWELL:

The farmers have responded. Briefly, it's more pigs than ever before. The production and market supply of hogs in 1942 promises to break all previous records by a large number. This fall's pig crop, which will go to market largely in the spring and summer of 1942, is estimated at more than 35-1/2 million. That's 18 percent larger than the fall pig crop of 1940.

The number of pigs born this fall was larger than last year in all sections of the country. The West North Central States showed an increase of 30 percent, and the East North Central 11 percent.

The number of sows farrowed this fall is estimated at more than 5-1/2 million -- a figure that is about 16 percent larger than last year, and also the largest on record. Here's another record. The number of pigs saved per litter was also the largest for all seasons.

The combined spring and fall pig crops of 1941 is estimated at more than 85 million head. This number is about 5 million larger than the combined spring and fall crops of 1940.

As we look ahead, reports from farmers indicate that the number of sows to farrow in the spring season of 1942 -- that's December of this year to June of next year -- is close to 10 million, an increase of well over 2 million. That would be the largest number of spring sows on record, and the increase from the previous year,

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in actual numbers, would be the largest for any spring season. Big increases in farrowings are indicated for all regions, with the biggest increase in Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, the Dakotas, Wisconsin, Minnesota. Over half the increase will take place in these states. If this number of sows farrow, and the average number of pigs per litter is saved, the spring pig crop of 1942 will be over 7 million head larger than any other spring pig crop on record.

It is possible that the number of sows farrowed in the next 6 months may be even larger than now expected.

And finally, the December report also shows more hogs including brood sows, over 6 months old, on farms on December 1 this year than last. This would indicate that this year's spring pig crop is being marketed later than was last year's, as the crops were about the same size both years.

KADDERLY:

Mike, it looks as if farmers are going to have the pigs to send to market next year that were called for by Secretary Wickard last September.

The information in this fall pig crop report just summarized by E. J. Rowell has based on "Breeding Intention Reports" collected by rural mail carriers from 161,000 farmers early this month.

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